

In the Claims:

Please amend Claims 10, 16, and 22 as follows (the changes in these Claims are shown with ~~strike through~~ for deleted matter and underlines for added matter). A complete listing of the claims is listed below with proper claim identifiers.

Claims

Claims 1-9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) An absorbent article that resists permanent creasing comprising:

a packaging component; and

an absorbent core comprising an activating member and at least first and second portions each defining a body side surface, wherein said absorbent article is independently movable from a folded condition, wherein said body side surfaces of said first and second portions face each other in a substantially parallel relationship under an applied pressure applied to said first and second portions, to an unfolded condition, wherein no pressure is applied to said first and second portions;

wherein said body-side surfaces of said first and second portions form at least one angle greater than or equal to about 90° in said unfolded condition when said absorbent core is positioned and maintained in said folded condition under 2800 psi of said applied pressure for about 5 seconds at 21°C and then is released to said unfolded condition for about 20 seconds; and

wherein said absorbent core, when subjected to said folded condition and released to said unfolded condition, resists permanent creasing.

11. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said angle is greater than 110°.

12. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said angle is greater than 130°.

13. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said absorbent core further comprises a third portion having a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces of said first and third portions being folded to face the body-side surface of said second portion.

14. (Previously Presented). The absorbent article of claim 10, wherein said activating member is defined by a body-side absorbent layer and said absorbent core further includes a garment side absorbent layer;

wherein said body-side absorbent layer comprises foam and said garment side absorbent layer comprises a superabsorbent material.

15. (Original) The absorbent article of claim 14, wherein said body-side absorbent layer comprises an open celled foam.

16. (Currently Amended) A thin folded absorbent article resistant to permanent creasing comprising:

a packaging component; and

an absorbent core being independently movable between a folded and an unfolded condition and having a thickness of no more than 8 mm when in said unfolded condition, said absorbent core comprising:

an activating member comprising foam; and

a layer comprising superabsorbent;

wherein the absorbent core has at least a first portion with a body-side surface and a second portion with a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces facing one another when said absorbent article is in said folded condition, and

wherein when said absorbent core is moved from said folded condition to said unfolded condition, said body-side surfaces of said first and second portions form at least one angle greater than 90°; and

wherein said absorbent core, when subjected to said folded condition, and released to said unfolded condition, resists permanent creasing.

17. (Original) The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent core, when unfolded, has a thickness of less than 5 mm.

18. (Original) The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent core, when unfolded after about 20 seconds, has a thickness of less than 4 mm.

19. (Original) The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the angle is greater than 110°.

20. (Original) The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the angle is greater than 130°.

21. (Original) The thin folded absorbent article of claim 16, wherein the absorbent article further includes a third portion having a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces of said first and third portions being folded to face the body-side surface of said second portion.

22. (Currently Amended) A thin folded absorbent article resistant to permanent creasing comprising:

a packaging component; and

an absorbent core being independently movable between a folded and an unfolded condition and having a thickness of no more than 8 mm when in said unfolded condition, said absorbent core comprising:

a first absorbent layer comprising an activating member; and

a second absorbent layer;

wherein the absorbent core has at least a first portion with a body-side surface and a second portion with a body-side surface, said body-side surfaces facing one another when said absorbent article is in said folded condition, and

wherein when said absorbent core is moved from said folded condition to said unfolded condition, said body-side surfaces of said first and second portions form at least one angle greater than 90° when said absorbent article is positioned in said folded condition under 2800 psi of said applied pressure for 5 seconds at 21°C and then is released to said unfolded condition for about 20 seconds; and

wherein said absorbent core, when subjected to said folded condition, and released to said unfolded condition, resists permanent creasing.

23. (Currently Amended) The thin folded absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the activating member ~~first absorbent layer~~ comprises and open celled foam.

24. (Original) The thin folded absorbent article of claim 22, wherein the second absorbent layer is comprised of superabsorbent.

Claims 25-35. (Cancelled).